

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

& WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. 3.

AURELIA, IOWA, NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 9

GOLDEN WYANDOTTES

McKeen Strain. Exclusively.

50 Pullets and Cockerels

For sale. No culls. Write your wants before they are scored.

ALBERT MITZLAFF, Abbottsford, Wis.

For 33 Years

I have bred the White Faced Black Spanish, and have made as close a study of the breed as anyone in America. Cockerels for sale. Circular and my photograph free if you mention The Messenger.

JOHN BENNETT, Sunman, Ind.

Barred Plymouth Rocks.

I have Barred Plymouth Rock cockerels scoring 92 points, pullets and hens scoring from 88½ to 91 points. Stock for sale in the fall at reasonable figures. Let me quote you prices.

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Buff Wyandottes

EXCLUSIVELY.

No more stock for sale this fall. Eggs from choice stock in the spring.

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Silver, White and Golden. White Guineas, Holland Turkeys and Pekin Ducks. Scored stock.

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Having finished hatching for this season, I will sell the stock I bred from in lots to suit. Must be sold to make room for the youngsters.

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Barred Plymouth Rocks,

G. A. C. CLARKE.

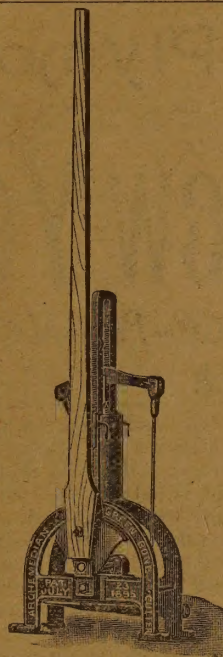
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Use nothing but exhibition males in our pens. Have some fine birds for sale. Business Motto: Treat every patron courteously, promptly, fairly and honestly and he will become your best advertisement.

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Golden Wyandottes

Golden Seabright Bantams.

Get my prices on breeding and exhibition stock before buying elsewhere.

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Cornish Indian Games, Exclu'y.

A few choice cockerels and pullets for sale after October 1st at hard time prices.

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15 White Rock hens scored and unscored

1 " " cock " "

10 Barred " hens scoring 90 to 93½.

All must go as the youngsters want their quarters. And you had ought to see them, BETTER THAN EVER.

Light BRAHMAS,

B. Ply. Rocks,

P. Cochins, R. C. B. Leghorns, and B. Minorcas. All first-class stock. I have for years been obtaining stock and eggs from such breeders as I. K. Felch, C. C. Shoemaker, and Shellabarger, and have selected the very best for breeding. I have some fine young stock for sale. Let me know what you want.

A. H. LANE, Keosauqua, Iowa.

Black Langshans!

I will have some good stock for sale in the fall. Write for what you want.

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SEND TO JOE FARMER, Flushing, Ohio.

For circular of choice Barred Plymouth Rocks and eggs. A fine lot of cockerels and pullets to sell and eggs from ten choice yards. Mention Messenger when you write.

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Barred and W. P. Rocks, Black Langshans, Light Brahmans, Single Comb Brown, Single Comb White, and Buff Leghorns, Buff Cochins, W. H. Turkeys, and Belgium Fares.

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From high scoring stock. Cockerels \$1 to \$3; pullets \$1 to \$2. They will produce winners and layers.

MARTIN RICKARD, Grinnell, Iowa.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

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No, Indeed,

You go to a specialist: one who by special training has fitted himself for that kind of work

We are Specialists

By a particular line of study and training: we have acquired special fitness for illustrating and designing poultry printing. Allow us to demonstrate this fact to you. Send for samples and catalogue.

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Incubators \$9 to \$40. Brooders \$4 to \$16, 60 page Catalogue for stamp. Expert **THE LEGHORN HOME,** Leghorn Breeders. Merriam Park, Minn.

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Illustrator No. 2, Incubators, etc.....	25
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Total..... \$1.75
All the above prepaid..... \$1.00

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Aurelia, Iowa.

BUFF P. ROCKS.

Cockeasels and pullets far sale. Write for description and prices.

A. L. BELEW, Aurelia, Iowa.

HATCH CHICKENS BY STEAM— With the **MODEL Excelsior Incubator.**
Simple, Perfect, Self-Regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at less cost than any other Hatcher. Lowest priced first-class Hatcher made. **GEO. H. STAHL,** 114 to 122 S. 6th St., Quincy, Ill.

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There's Lots of it. Our great Poultry Book tells how to get it out. Its sensible and practical. Sent free to every one sending five two-cent stamps for a trial 3 month's subscription to **FARM NEWS**—the best general farm paper published. A great paper and a great book. Address **FARM NEWS, SPRINGFIELD, O.**
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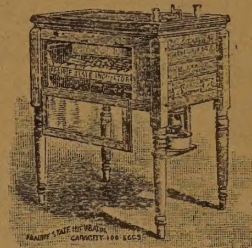
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BREEDER AND SHIPPER

Of All Leading Varieties

OF PURE BRED POULTRY.

Stock is farm raised and healthy, and satisfaction is assured in every sale. Write for description and prices.



170 First Premiums.

Used by the Largest Breeders Exclusively,
Do not buy until you send for our 160-page Illustrated Catalogue.

All Machines Warranted.

PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR CO., Homer City, Pa.

White Plymouth Rocks.

Young stock for sale bred from birds scoring 93 points and over. You will find my prices very reasonable. Let me know what you want. **ALFRED ANDRAE,** Aurelia, Iowa

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18 PAGES A WEEK,

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A paper as useful to you as a great \$6 daily for only one dollar a year, and The Poultry Messenger thrown in. Better than ever. Accurate and fair to everybody. All the News of All the World All the Time. Against trusts and all monopolies. Brilliant Illustrations. Stories by great authors in every number. Splendid reading for women and other special departments of unusual interest. It stands first among "weekly" papers in size, frequency of publication and freshness, variety and reliability of contents. It is practically a daily at the low price of a weekly; and its vast list of subscribers, extending to every state and territory of the Union and foreign countries, will vouch for the accuracy and fairness of its news columns. We offer this unequalled newspaper and The Poultry Messenger together one year for only one dollar. Address

THE POULTRY MESSENGER, Aurelia, Iowa.



BARRED P. ROCKS.

"Zebra," "Royal Blue" and "Ringlet" strains. A grand lot of chicks from either of the above strains for sale.

My Famous Strain of Brown Leghorns

are still in the lead. Write for prices; they are reasonable. A score card with each bird, if desired.

O. P. GREER, Bourbon, Indiana.

The Poultry Messenger,

And Western Fruit Grower.

Vol. 3.

AURELIA, IOWA, NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 9

A Great Industry.

It is admitted that the government census report in regard to the poultry of the country is very unreliable. The majority of the people who keep poultry have a very indefinite idea of the income from the same during a year or a series of years. The figures given to the census taker are to a large extent guess work. But all this does not disprove the statement set forth in the last census report, that the poultry products of the United States amount to \$290,000,000 a year, and exceed in value the cattle, the hogs, or any of the grain crops. The poultry is undervalued on most of the farms. In guessing at the returns the chances are that they were more often estimated too low than too high. The public can hardly credit the fact that the poultry of the United States represents such an immense sum of money as that above named. The farmer makes a rough calculation in relation to the returns from his poultry and compares it with those from his hogs and cattle, and declares that the statement is preposterous. But the farmers raise only 40 per cent of the poultry and eggs produced in the United States. The larger proportion of these products are produced in the villages and on small areas of land specially fitted up for poultry farming. Outside of the cities nearly every family keeps a few hens, and these in the aggregate represent an immense sum of money. Thousands of families are in large part or wholly supported by the products of poultry kept under these circumstances, and the reports from these sources are a very close approximate of the truth. When one's sole income is from his poultry he is not likely to be much in the dark as to the amount of the income; and even where one has only a few dozen hens carefully watched over and the food for which has to be obtained by the expenditure of ready money, he is more apt to have

a correct idea of the net income than in the case of the person with several hundred running at large without special oversight or attention, which are fed largely on waste material produced on the ground, and the product of which is not regarded as an important item towards meeting the family expenses. The people who keep poultry properly are mainly responsible for the marvelous showing of the census report. There is no reason to believe that they have exaggerated the facts. If all others had been equally exact the showing would probably have exceeded that already made.

Feeding for Eggs.

Any system of feeding which causes a hen to store up fat faster than it can be utilized in the production of eggs will sooner or later bring about a condition which will make it impossible for her to lay eggs. The food consumed must be just sufficient to supply the hen with healthy nourishment and material for the formation of the egg. Overfeeding destroys this balance, the excess contributing to a fatty condition the ultimate effect of which is to put a stop to laying. The time when one needs to be particularly careful is when the hens are laying freely. It should be understood that the limit has then been reached, a very slight increase of the allowance will then work mischief. If any change at all is made at this time it had better be in the opposite direction. In fact it is usually a safe rule to slightly curtail the allowance at this point, as in the transition from a healthy state to extreme fatness the hen will pass through a stage of prolific laying, unless she is being crowded with fat producing food beyond all reason. By slightly diminishing the quantity of food when the hens are at their best, and looking sharply to the effect, one will often save his flock from getting in that unproductive condition which is

such a perplexity and discouragement to many people who build their hopes upon having a profitable flock of layers in winter.

Proving Their Utility Qualities.

Breeders of standard bred poultry should be better prepared to furnish the proof of the superior laying qualities of their fowls. They should keep an exact record, and seize upon every proper occasion to make it public. They should give it a place in their circulars and catalogues, and the showroom should contain abundant evidence of the fact that fowls of this class are what is claimed for them, the greatest egg-producers on earth.

The utility people are constantly working against standard bred poultry. There is no disguising the fact that they have created a deep-seated prejudice against such poultry in the mind of the general public. Their unsupported testimony has led thousands of people to believe that such poultry possessed no value beyond that which attaches to the prize takers of the showroom—that it is strongly predisposed to disease, lacking in constitution, and compares unfavorably with the so-called utility class in egg production. Breeders of standard bred poultry know this is a gross misrepresentation of the facts, but it is a matter of no small interest to them that others should know it. The fowls which capture the prizes of the showroom have an egg record which will not suffer by comparison with that of birds which have no standing as exhibition stock. The general public has been taught to disbelieve this, and the owners of these fine fowls have a hard task before them to brush away this error. It is a task to which they should address themselves earnestly, and keep pounding away at it at least as industriously as those who are responsible for the error. They should scatter broadcast the proof they have in hand,

Bennett's "Sand."

Editor POULTRY MESSENGER:—

I thought I had a dead sure thing when I said The J. W. Miller Co. did not furnish 400 baskets of eggs in one day. It looked so unreasonable that I thought I could see the "stretch" in nearly every line. I wish I was sure that it is true, not in regard to the 400 baskets alone, but the other statements which go with it. It looks fishy, and it seems to me that one can be well excused for not taking it down as fact. Four hundred baskets of eggs in one day—even 400! Did you, or did you not, hold the orders for a good many days in order to make a large showing, and have something to boast about? No, you say you received all the orders for the 400 baskets in three days, May 9th, 10th and 11th, and shipped all of these orders the very next day, the 12th. Now, reader, note this: "We shipped by the United States Express Co. 400 baskets of eggs to 400 customers." If you really and truly did this then you were very disregarding of the interests of some of your customers. It is not in reason to suppose that all of these 400 customers could be most directly and economically reached by the United States Express Co. Freeport has other express companies. It seems to me that I can safely assume this, though I do not know it to be a fact. Did the United States Express Co. pass the baskets around to its competitors where in so doing expense would be saved the buyers by reason of the goods going through to their destination without change? If so, the United States Express Co. is a "daisy", and I want to make to it my profound obeisance. It is as a locomotive headlight is to a tallow dip in comparison with all other institutions of that character. But another thought occurs to me. Did all these 400 baskets contain just one setting of eggs? That does not seem probable. Judging from my own long experience in shipping eggs I should judge that the half of the orders were for two and three settings. Now suppose that 200 were one set and 200 were two set orders, making 600 settings. This would call for about 7,800 eggs, or 2,600 per day. It would require 3,500 breeders to produce the eggs. Have The J. W. Miller Co. got that many? If they have I will agree to walk all the way to Freeport to see

them—old as I am. But you did not say that the hens laid all the eggs for the 400 baskets in three days. All right; but what did you do with the orders that came in before the 9th 10th and 11th? These may be impertinent questions, but they are questions which are naturally called up by the statements made in the article referred to.

As to the proposed wager of one thousand dollars, I will say that I don't lack the "sand," but haven't the thousand dollars lying around loose, or in bank. I have no wealth. I am "poor, but honest." If a good reputation is wealth, then I am a rich uncle.

In conclusion I will say that I hope it is true that The J. W. Miller Co. shipped the 400 baskets of eggs on the dates named, and I hope they will make many more shipments as large, or larger. I am not envious of their prosperity. I like to see people get on in the world, and The J. W. Miller Co., have my best wishes for a continuance of the large and lucrative business which their energies have brought them in the past. I hold, however, that I was justified in publicly questioning the remarkable statement which has called forth this correspondence.

JOHN BENNETT.

Sunman, Ind.

A Little Unreasonable.

Only a very few people now living have seen a male Buff Cochins entirely free from dark spots on the wing. And yet there are thousands of people who are doing their very utmost to get rid of these dark spots, and thousands of others were working for the same end before many of these people were born. The Buff Cochins supplied the color in all of the later buff breeds. Is it reasonable to expect a solid buff in these newer breeds when the same thing is such a rarity in the very best strains of the old Buff Cochins.

R. O. Ackley, of Sioux City, has a flock of Light Brahmas which he can well be proud of, and his prices are reasonable. Those in want of birds of that breed will find it to their interest to correspond with him.

The largest paper in the world devoted to the culture of any one kind of stock is a poultry paper. The name of it is the Reliable Poultry Journal, pub-

lished at Quincy, Illinois. It is an eye-opener for those people who stick to it that poultry keeping is a small business

In mating see to it that the male has extra development in those particulars in which the female is deficient. This is a standard rule, and it should be constantly kept in mind. Don't let a bad point become fixed and intensified by a tendency in that direction inherited from both parents.

Over in England they are not at all backward in claiming that in improved poultry and all that relates to it, they lead the world. A well known American poultryman who recently attended one of their great shows says that the best Plymouth Rocks on exhibition would not rank above second grade culls in this country. The splendid qualities of the Plymouth Rock ought to be apparent even to those to whom he is a foreigner. People who are blind to these can hardly maintain their claim to being in the lead in thoroughbred poultry culture.

Two for the Price of One.

We will send The Messenger and either of the following journals to any address for 50 cents. The regular subscription price of all the papers in the list is 50 cents. You get The Messenger for nothing,

The Reliable Poultry Journal.
The Poultry Tribune. (Freeport, Ill.)
The Poultry Herald.
The Western Poultry Journal.
The Feathered Realm.
The Michigan Poultry Breeder.
American Poultry Journal.
Inter-State Poultryman.
The Poultry-Keeper.
The California Poultry Tribune.
□ Poultry Culture, Kansas City, Mo.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm. WEST & TRAU, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio. WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Testimonials free.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

The South Side.

Everyone understands the importance of giving the poultry house thorough protection on the north and west sides. The prevailing winter winds are from those directions, and these winds must be shut out of the poultry house. No one is ignorant of this fact, and nobody who pretends to take good care of his poultry leaves the interior of the building exposed to the cold coming from these directions. But it is commonly understood that the south side is the warm side of the poultry house, and it is looked upon as a matter of less importance to closely cover every crevice which could admit the cold from this source. If the paper lining runs short, it is thought safe to leave a strip or two off the south wall, or if a board becomes awry there is no hurry about fixing it, because it is on the south, and the thought is that the cold which is to be guarded against is that which comes from the north and west.

The cold south wind is the most difficult wind for the poultryman to fight against. On the north and west everything can be closed up snug and tight and the penetrating winds effectually shut out. But the poultry house must have windows, and they must be on the south side. Make them as close fitting as you can—make them double—and still there will be currents of air about the joints. It is the south wind which makes the cold poultry house. It is the wind which baffles all the efforts of the poultryman to maintain a temperature conducive to egg production. Go into the poultry house of a bitter cold day in winter and it is pleasantly warm if the wind is from the north or west. The hens are moving about in comfort, and appear to have no suspicion of the temperature outside. But let one of those biting south winds come which everybody dreads and there is a cold poultry house in spite of everything that the owner can do to make it warm. The windows, and as is often the case, the doors, on that side, cannot be made close enough to exclude the winds. The poultryman gathers fewer eggs during the prevalence of a cold south wind than a north or west one.

Don't slight the lining on the south side of the poultry house. When you have done your best there will be days during the winter when you will have reason to wish that you could make it warmer.

Broiler Raising in a Small Way.

It is declared by those in a position to know the facts that broilers have sold above the average price during the past winter. This refers more particularly to the best quality of broilers. In low grades there has been no marked improvement between this and other years.

Broiler raising can be safely recommended as a good winter business for people who are out of regular employment during the winter months. Many mechanics, such as plasterers and carpenters, whose engagements end with the close of the summer, earn a support during the winter by means of broiler raising. These people, as a rule, are located in cities or large towns, and many of them are restricted to the space of a city lot on which to carry on their operations. They usually produce their own eggs, or a large portion of them, but many fill their incubator with eggs furnished by other parties. They start their incubators in November, and by the end of March the chicks are all marketed, and the owner's hands are free for his summer occupation.

Broiler raising is something that is not learned in a day, and we do not want to encourage the idea that anybody can pick it up and make money at it from the start. But people who are favorably situated for the business, and possess the patience and perseverance for mastering the details, can in this manner make fair wages during a period of enforced idleness in mid winter. Lots of people have gone into this and find that it pays. How profitable it would be, or whether it would return any profit at all at a distance of a hundred miles or so from market, we have no means of knowing. If any reader of The Messenger so situated has made a test of the matter we should be pleased to be furnished with his experience.

The fallen leaves which for appearance sake, it is deemed necessary to gather up from the yard about the house, will be made better use of by being stored away for the scratching pen than burned. We do not regard leaves as the best material for the scratching pen—but when they are already on hand and other material is wanting, they will answer very well for the purpose named.

A. N. Wright, of Owatonna, Minnesota, in a letter to this office, says: "I

have been breeding Silver-Laced Wyandottes for eight years, and have always tried to get the best blood possible—always working for the top round. I have 180 this fall to pick from, and I think I am in a position to please my customers."

Ten Dollars

Will Buy Them.

ONE TRIO OF

BUFF Plymouth **ROCKS.**

(Cockerel and two Pullets.)

Took first premium at the LeMars, Iowa, Fair, G. A. C. Clarke, Judge. Solid red ear-lobes, no black in hackle, fine shape and carriage and good color. April hatched: pullets are now laying.

A. L. BELEW, Aurelia, Iowa.

FANCY PIGEONS,

Guinea Pigs and Rabbits—all varieties, and Golden Seabright Bantams.

W. C. HUGUNIN, Spencer, Iowa.

Light Brahmas, Felch Strain.

Barred Plymouth Rocks.

Chicks hatched with hens in February, March, April and May; they are of mammoth size and have extra fine plumage. I will sell my surplus stock at prices that are right. No culls for sale at any price.

N. J. E. BALLARD, Onawa, Iowa.

4 LBS. Best Granulated SUGAR \$1.00

We are selling 41 lbs. of the best Granulated Sugar for \$1.00, and everything in the grocery line at "rock bottom" prices. We are the Only Supply House that Sell to Consumers at Strictly Wholesale Prices, which is clearly proven when we sell 41 lbs. best granulated sugar \$1.00. We ship these goods anywhere to anybody and guarantee satisfaction. Send No Money, but cut this out and send for full particulars enclosing two cents in stamps to CONSOLIDATED WHOLESALE SUPPLY CO., 215 to 219 So. Clinton St., Chicago, Ill.

TO MAKE HENS LAY

Feed them properly. A hen is a machine for turning food into eggs. How to get the most out of the machine is told in the literature which we mail free to all poultry keepers. Send your name and address.

FITCH FERTILIZER WORKS,
Bay City, Michigan.

Why They Are Damp.

Poultry houses which are built late in the fall, after the ground begins to freeze at night, are apt to be damp during the winter. The soil enclosed by the building is usually full of moisture, and this is given off during the winter and settles on the walls in the shape of frost. It is not possible to have a warm and dry poultry house when the building is postponed till late fall, especially if the previous season has been a wet one. If the house is built in summer the ground covered by it will have a chance to dry out, and the moisture will be less troublesome after cold weather has set in. It often happens that a late built house proves so unsatisfactory on account of dampness that the owner resolves to make expensive changes before the coming of another winter, and having done so, the moisture does not appear the succeeding winter, and this result is credited to the alterations which have been made to the building. This conclusion is not always correct. The ground has become thoroughly dried during the summer which has intervened, and the effect would have been the same if the house had been left as originally built. Chickens abhor moisture, and all possible precautions should be taken to have their quarters dry. Even the filling of loose earth, which is really an important part of the fall work, should be done the forepart of the season and, if possible, a time selected for doing it when the ground is not heavily charged with water.

Hen Despotism.

Sort up the flocks as evenly as possible. Don't confine one and two year old hens in the same pen with pullets that will not be of a laying age for a month or two to come. Keep the old hens in a pen to themselves, or if they are to be associated with pullets, let the latter be fully matured, having size and strength to enable them to stand up and fight for their rights. Undersized pullets will soon become cowed by the old hens, and will lack the courage to take part in the scramble at the feed trough and get their share. Their half starved condition will soon become apparent, and many of them that under favorable circumstances would have developed into profitable winter layers,

will shrink away and die. And those that survive the winter will simply be a dead expense to the owner. Make up the pens of birds of an even size. It is sometimes advisable to divide a pen for a few months, removing the partition after the smaller birds have attained a size which will make it safe for them to run with the larger ones.

Feather Eating.

The vice of feather-eating is sometimes contracted while the young stock is running at large, and before the season is sufficiently far advanced to confine it in the winter yards. A cockerel will sometimes be seen denuded of his neck feathers or some other portion of the body will be bared, but generally it is the feathers of the neck which are absent. In such a case it is pretty safe to conclude that feather-eating has had a beginning, and the sooner this cockerel is entirely separated from the balance of the flock the better. It will not suffice to place him in a yard where he can be reached from the outside through the openings in the fence. He must be confined in a close coop wholly out of touch of the other birds. If this can-

not be done, he should be sold or killed. When a new growth of feathers has been obtained he can again be turned in with the flock, and if he is strong and active he is no more liable to again become a prey to the persecutions of his companions than any of his mates.



Silver Laced Wyandotte.

As Bred By A. N. Wright, Owatonna, Minn.

ROSE-COMB BROWN Leghorns

From Prize Winning Stock.

My Prices

Will be satisfactory to you. Write to me before buying.

BULL TERRIERS

AT HALF THEIR VALUE.

Old dogs and puppies for sale. No poultryman can appreciate the value of the Bull Terrier until he has had one about him and seen the service it can do him in the way of clearing the premises of enemies of the poultry yard.

THE FASHION KENNELS,
Hawarden, Iowa.

The Messenger and Thrice-A-Week
New York World, both for \$1.00.

Getting Started.

A very large proportion of the people who have a desire to possess a fine flock of standard fowls, start out with the idea that they can begin with something of middle or low grade and by careful culling build up a flock of first-class merit. It seems to them like an extravagance to pay the price which a breeder of high reputation asks for a trio of fowls when by following the plan above alluded to they can in a few years have their yards full of such fowls. These people find out after they have got well started that "breeding up" is not such an easy thing to do as it appears. Many times when they think they are breeding up they are breeding down, as they discover later on. People do not find out all they need to know about mating in two or three years. They will meet with many surprises and disappointments before they can make up their breeding pens with anything like assurance of results which will confirm the wisdom of their selections. Without experience, one is wholly in the dark when it comes to picking out the birds that can be depended upon with reasonable certainty to produce specimens as good or better than themselves. The man who has not had training in this line will miss his calculations badly even when he has a flock with line breeding to work with, and if destitute of such relationship, it will be purely accidental if his progress is not all in the wrong direction until he catches on to the secrets of the business. Let all such people take this fact home. In so doing they will save themselves a deal of disappointment and worry. Breeding up, by people who have had no opportunities for learning the "know how," is a delusion which will land in the mire nine-tenth of those who undertake it. Start with stock which is already bred up. Even with such a beginning as this, one will be an exceptionally apt pupil if he succeeds in holding his ground without the aid of outside counsel. A good set of tools does not make a good carpenter, but good tools and an experienced carpenter to direct you how to use them, will enable you to do the work of a good carpenter. The expert breeder is always ready and willing to give his patrons such instruction as they need, or may ask for. He will fit them out with the tools and show them how to use them.

The Size of House.

A poultry house ten feet square affords winter accommodations for only ten fowls of the medium size class, such as the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes. This is the rule that is laid down by the most successful breeders. Ten good hens properly looked after will furnish more eggs than twenty hens in a house of this size. The writer has seen fifty hens in a house no larger than this in mid-winter, and the owner considered himself armed with the proof that there was not a cent of profit in keeping chickens. And such people will never change their opinion so long as they keep chickens in that way.

Going to Build a New Poultry House?

If you are, you will find that "Poultry Houses and Fixtures," just published, is what you want. It is positively the best book of the kind ever compiled.

It contains a dozen different styles of up-to-date single and double poultry houses, suitable for the city lot, the village acre or the farm.

It contains illustrated and fully described plans of buildings and yards for extensive egg farms and thoroughbred poultry plants, including illustrated descriptions of some of the best ones in operation.

It contains plans of brooding houses for broiler farms, duck ranches, etc., giving the desired information to persons who intend to raise poultry on an extensive scale by the use of incubators and brooders.

It also contains illustrated descriptions of numerous handy appliances for the poultry house and yard, including time-saving, labor-saving, money-saving fixtures, that can be made at home and used to good advantage.

"Poultry Houses and Fixtures" is a book 9x11½ inches and consists of thirty two pages and cover. Price 25 cents. We send The Messenger one year and the book postpaid for 35 cents.

W. E. Dorland & Co.,

Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Breeders of thoroughbred Silver Laced Wyandottes, Light Brahmas, Single Comb Brown Leghorns, Single Comb White Leghorns, Pekin Ducks and Bronze Turkeys. Fifteen varieties of land and water fowls. Prize winners from the famous Mansfield Poultry Yards. Catalogue free on application.

Barred Plymouth Rocks

Stock and Eggs. Write wants. W. A. Shipton, Uhrichville, Ohio.

Uncle Sam's Whitewash.

This is the way that Uncle Sam makes his whitewash: Slack half a bushel of good stone lime in boiling water, keeping it covered while being slaked. Strain and add half a peck of salt dissolved in water, three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste, half a pound of powdered Spanish whiting, and a pound of clear glue dissolved in water. Mix all these together, and mix thoroughly with the strained slaked lime. Stand for several days. Apply as hot as possible with a clean brush.

TRY THE**PRAIRIE FARMER****NEXT YEAR.**

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, \$1.00 A YEAR.

By special arrangement we can send

Both The Messenger and the
PRAIRIE FARMER

A Full Year for Only 85 Cents

Send to The Prairie Farmer, Chicago, Illinois, for a free sample copy. To secure this reduced rate orders must be sent to this office.



In the country, village, or in the suburb money may be made in the poultry business by the employment of correct methods. You can't afford to keep hens to hatch and brood your chicks. A better and more economical plan and one more certain of good results will be found in the use of the

RELIABLE INCUBATOR & BROODER.

The remainder of the story and plan of procedure is in our Book on Incubation and Poultry. Send 10 cents for it.

RELIABLE INCUB & BROODER CO.,
QUINCY, ILL.

A Good Business, but not a Fortune Making Business.

Mr. J. L. Todd, a well known poultry-man of this state, says: There is money in the poultry business; this I know. Misfortune struck me some eight or nine years ago and left me with nothing but my hands and a few thoroughbreds and a family to support; yet we have lived, and lived decently, and carried on the poultry business, and saved during that time a comfortable home worth at least \$3,000."

A large proportion of the people who take up poultry culture as a means of making a livelihood start with an exaggerated idea as to the profits of the business. They have read that nothing pays so well as chickens—that a comfortable fortune can be quickly acquired from the product of a few hundred hens. And believing what they have read, they put themselves in possession of a plant and launch forth in the business in full expectation of reaping a harvest of gold. The fact cannot be too strongly impressed upon the general reader that the only people who have made any money out of poultry culture are those who have started in a small way and gradually enlarged their facilities as they gained in knowledge of the business. Those who make their beginning with a large plant—and by this we mean a plant affording accommodations for anything above one-hundred fowls—make a complete failure of the venture nine times out of ten. Mr. Todd's success is a fair indication of what one may reasonably expect from the business if he starts right, and is close observing, persevering and industrious. He can live comfortably and accumulate something for his support when his working days are over; but he will be one of ten thousand if he ever succeeds in laying up enough to be called wealthy. Poultry keeping is a good business—a money-making business. It affords money enough to enable a person to live "decently," as Mr. Todd says, but he who wants to "cut a swell" in the world, and have money to spend in extravagance, is on the wrong track if he expects to get it by means of poultry farming.

Laying the Foundation.

Most judges will cut severely for a bad comb or eye. Defects of this character will be discovered at first glance,

and will be shown no mercy. A lopped, misshaped, wrinkled comb on a Plymouth Rock, or any single comb breed, is the spoiling of the bird for exhibition purposes, and a light gray or pearl eye where a dark bay is required, is scarcely any less objectionable than a bad comb. These are two faults which should be done away with. They should be so thoroughly weeded out as to make the owner of the birds sure that they will not reappear in his flock. It is intensely provoking to rear a bird that is all that could be desired in shape and style and plumage, and yet is utterly worthless on account of a deformed comb. It is a good deal like owning a fine horse with only three legs. Breed out for all time such defects as these and thus lay a good foundation to build upon. You can afford to sacrifice something in color until this work is done. The finest color and markings will not sell for anything if such faults as are here alluded to have to go with them. Get entirely away from these faults and give your attention to color and markings afterward. We have an example of the effects of an opposite plan of breeding in some of the new buffs. It is a common thing to find birds of these varieties that are almost perfect in color, but with combs which would disgrace the meanest scrub in existence. This is evidence of the fact that breeders have been mainly reaching out for color to the neglect of other things without which color counts for nothing. Carloads of ideal birds of this class are being condemned to the fate of market poultry by an ill-shaped comb or a glaring eye.

For the Early Broods.

If it is proposed to have some early broods next spring, the nursery coops should be made ready in the fall. These coops should be made more roomy than the ordinary nursery coop, as there will be days when the brood cannot be allowed to go outside, and at such times they should not be crowded in a small

space. We make them four by eight feet, out of any old lumber that may be at hand, only slightly sloping roof covered with tarred building paper. The roof is not more than three feet from the ground at the highest point. The walls are banked with earth on the north, west and east, and a three-pane sash is fitted in the front. This sash is hinged and also answers the purpose of a door. A brood of chicks may be quartered in such a house as this in February, and will keep in good health and thrift if they are rightly fed and cared for. And there is always a demand for winter hatched birds at the time that the early fall shows are held.

One handful of grain to two birds is considered by many breeders about the right quantity to feed. In the absence of a measure this is a very good rule to follow.

Fasten the paper lining to the poultry house walls with laths, using short stout nails. Where tacks alone are used the heads soon pull through the paper which becomes loosened and drops off.

Valuable Formula for 10 Cents.

Hooper's Lice Formula kills insect life with lightning dispatch, Rough on Lice, Mites, Bedbugs, Roaches, Fleas, Ants, etc; exterminates with magical effect; cheap, harmless, easily applied, directions for making 10 cents, (stamps) circulars free. F. L. Hooper, box 8, Station D, Baltimore, Maryland.

—THAT—

Great Show,

—THE—

KLONDIKE

—OF—

American Fanciers,

Will be held at Lansing, Michigan, December 20-25, 1897, under the auspices of the

Central Michigan

Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Association. H. A. Bridge, judge. Premium List will be ready about November 1st.

CHAS. F. CRANE, Secretary,
Lansing, Michigan.



SWINGING FEED TRAY
FOR POULTRY.
its cost in waste food alone. Hens cannot scratch food out of it, nor dirt into it, nor roost on it. We sell for cash or instalments.

MANN'S GREEN BONE CUTTERS

and MANN'S Granite Crystal GRIT

Are two great egg makers. They prove the triumph of science over guesswork. Success is certain. Hens will lay twice as many eggs when fed on green bone and grit.

MANN'S SWINGING FEED TRAY for poultry will save its cost in waste food alone. Hens cannot scratch food out of it, nor dirt into it, nor roost on it. We sell for cash or instalments. F. W. MANN CO., Milford, Mass.



riage, walk, and all his actions with his associates and his attendant. It is an aggravation to work among chickens of this kind. You never know what to expect of them, and they are continually springing surprises on you by their insane maneuvers. We don't know that such stupidity is hereditary. We despise it to such a degree that we have never had the courage to make it the subject of an experiment. We would rather give away a rooster or a hen of this type than take any chances with it in the breeding pen, no matter what may be its rank in the way of good points.

A Hard Thrust.

I believe that if the truth could be known we should find that breeders who are decrying the achievements of fanciers are those who have failed in the attempt to breed fancy stock, and are crying utility as a subterfuge to attract customers. Probably they fail as completely to improve their birds in utility as in breeding for beauty.—Geo. H. Northup.

A Reliable Commission House.

The Sprague Commission House, of Chicago, makes a specialty of handling poultry, and has facilities for making sales in this line not possessed by the ordinary commission house. You will find no better firm to ship your poultry and eggs to than this. Don't give away half your profits to some poultry huckster, or some unknown dealer in a third rate city; but send to the best market, and sell through a firm of first-class reputation.

BABY

A self-regulating incubator all complete for \$4.50. It is just what you are after. Send at once for particulars.

A. H. WHITMORE, Hammon, N. J.

Nonpareil Poultry Yards, La Salle, Illinois.

J. A. WEERTS, PROP.

Breeder of

ROSE-COMB BROWN LEGHORNS, SINGLE AND ROSE COMB BLACK MINORCAS.

Stock for sale with score cards. Let me know what you are in need of. I am prepared to prove to you that my birds are the equal of anything on the market. I will have eggs for sale during the hatching season at a reasonable price.

300 BUFF LEGHORNS,

And they are Good Ones.

These birds have had the best of care and range, and are in prime condition. I can furnish you with what you want, and you will find my prices reasonable.

Black Langshans.

My birds of this breed were bred from fine show birds, and are sure to give a good account of themselves wherever put on exhibition. Score cards furnished.

M. PARROTT,

AURELIA, IOWA.



G. W. TOYNE

Glidden, Iowa.

Breeder and

Mater of

SILVER-LACED WYANDOTTES, Only.

Eggs \$1 for 15. Birds for Sale.

BLACK MINORCAS.

Rose Comb Brown Leghorns. Barred Plymouth Rocks.

No better stock found anywhere. Eggs \$1.00 per 13. Satisfaction guaranteed.

W. H. PROTEXTER, Sheldon, Iowa.

Chicago and Detroit, 1897.

BUFF LEGHORN WINNERS.

I want every person interested in this popular and beautiful breed to send for our large 8-page '97 circular, free, stamp accepted. I have one of the finest flocks in America. Prize winners for six years. Get my circular sure.

GEO. S. BARNES,

Battle Creek, Michigan.

BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCKS

Are leaders at Lone Oak Poultry Yards. Also B. and W. Ply. Rocks, Buff Leghorns, Buff Cochins, S. S. Hamburghs, B. Langshans and Lt. Brahmas, Toulouse Geese and Pekin Ducks. Young stock for sale. Eggs in season.

A BARGAIN

in one yard of Lt. Brahmas, 10 hens and one cock for \$12.00.

A. C. DILLER, Marshalltown, Iowa.

WELCH'S Single-Comb Brown LEGHORNS

Good birds for sale at all times for breeding and show purposes at reasonable prices. Satisfaction guaranteed. Eggs in season, \$1.50 per sitting. Correspondence promptly answered.

Wolverine Poultry Yard,

Jas. C. Welch, Prop.

Lansing, Mich.

Vegetable Food for Young Stock.

When the young stock is taken off the range and put in the winter pens they should be given something in the way of vegetable food every day, at least until they have become somewhat accustomed to the change. While at large they will find green grass until very late in the fall, and will consume a quantity of food of this kind every day. To suddenly deprive them of it and confine them to a ration of dry grain is an imprudence which is likely to result in loss to the owner. Many of the birds are still growing stock, and grain alone does not furnish the elements which they require to complete their growth. If there is not a supply of vegetable food on hand to last through the winter, make use of at least a part of the reserve now, even at the expense of entirely depriving the birds of it a month later.

Stock that is a little undersized is best off in the brood coops at night until there is actual danger of freezing. A banking of earth about the coops will make them warm enough until the ground begins to freeze, the owner being in readiness to transfer them to the winter quarters on the first signs of the approach of a storm. Let these immature birds have their liberty up to the last moment that it is safe to leave them outside of the winter coops and yards.

Must Have Score Cards.

The people who stand ready to pay you all you ask for your best birds will not buy of you unless they are scored. You can use up quires of paper in telling how fine they are, but they have no personal acquaintance with you and decline to take your word for it. They argue that if you have such birds as you describe you would be prepared to present evidence of the fact other than your own say so—that you would reinforce your description with the testimony of some reputable poultry judge. If you don't do this you must make up your mind to get along without the patronage of a certain class of buyers which is very desirable because they know what a good bird is worth and are ready to pay full value for what they want. Getting a score on the birds is expensive, but some means must be found for doing this if you expect to receive what you ought to have for your best sellers.

Show It to the Agent.

Letters received at this office from time to time go to show that some of the express agents do not understand the new regulations in relation to the shipment of breeding poultry, but still insist upon the payment of the old double first-class rate, without regard to the kind of coop in which the birds are sent. The instructions delivered to the agents when the change went into effect, about two years ago, are as follows:

POULTRY LIVE:—Other than for market, when shipped in coops made of wood of a strength and size acceptable for transportation, and which would be accepted at a single rate without cloth covering, may be taken at a single merchandise rate when an additional covering in part or in whole of cloth is added to protect the fowls from draughts or injury. Double merchandise rate must be charged on coops where cloth is used for making the coop, enclosing and confining the fowls, and which would not be a safe and satisfactory shipping coop without the cloth.

Good Fences.

When the young stock are first placed in the yards be sure that the fencing is in such a shape as will effectually prevent them from making their escape. If one of the birds succeeds in getting out it will be a continual bother for weeks afterward, and will have set a bad example to the balance of the flock. Unless the fence is a high one, have extra wires in position to catch the birds in their flight and dash them back to the ground. After meeting with a surprise of this kind two or three times they will cease their attempts to escape from the yard.

Remove four or six inches of earth from the floor of the poultry house before the freeze-up, and replace it with fresh soil from the garden. Do this even though you have to neglect something else really important in order to attend to it. The surface of the floor becomes saturated with liquid filth in the course of a season, and thus becomes the source of diseases which are attributed to other causes.

The Buckeye Don't Disappoint.

The machines made by the Buckeye Incubator Company give excellent satisfaction. The editor of The Messenger is personally acquainted with several

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Make Money

Mounting Birds

—WITH—

Ackley's : Taxeder.

No Skinning,

And very little practice required. Works equally well on large or small birds. The birds have a life-like appearance obtained by no other process. One box of Ackley's Taxeder is sufficient to mount 20 birds. The box with full directions only \$1.00.

NO TOOLS REQUIRED

Excepting such as everyone has on hand. Birds mounted in this manner won the highest award at the World's Fair. A Taxedermist's work is both pleasant and profitable.

T. L. ACKLEY.

Mention Messenger.

Hawarden, Iowa.

Repeating Old Things.

Because one person sees a fact set forth in a poultry paper which he already knows, it does not follow that every other reader of the paper knows it. There are beginners all the time, and they naturally seek the information which they are in need of from the poultry papers. Points with which the old stagers were familiar ten or twenty years ago are new to these beginners, and it would be a dereliction of duty on the part of the poultry papers to neglect to repeat these old things. The old hands at the business sometimes get a little tired of seeing them, and once in awhile write to the editor and tell him that a statement made in a designated number of his paper is as old as the hills, and that the space would have been better used if it had been occupied by something new. If these complaining subscribers will look over the query department of the poultry papers they will discover that fully three-fourths of the questions are of a nature which any experienced poultryman could answer as easily as he could repeat the alphabet. This goes to show that many readers of the papers are just taking their first lessons in poultry culture. The good which the poultry papers do is mostly expended upon this class. The old veterans do not stand greatly in need of the poultry papers. They have learned their trade and while the best of them realize that there are yet many problems for them to wrestle with, they expect to solve them, if at all, through the light of their experience rather than by what they read. The beginners want the basic rules, and these must be continually repeated if any considerable proportion of the beginners are to profit by them.

Make a Dropping Board.

The dropping board ought to have a place in every poultry house. No other one thing saves so much time and labor in the daily cleaning of the quarters, and no reasonable amount of labor will enable one to keep a poultry house as clean without it as with it. A board sixteen inches wide is about the right width, and it should be attached to the building in a manner which will permit it to be easily removed and cleaned when the house is being treated for the destruction of lice.

We have always advised the keeping of the broods apart as much as possible during the summer—the location of the various coops at as great a distance from each other as the time at the disposal of the owner will admit of. The range is thus better worked over, and many accidents are avoided as the result of crowding and fighting. But on the approach of winter gradually accustom the flocks to feeding at the same troughs. Acquaintance will thus be established, and the birds will not be so hostile to each other when the time arrives for breaking up the families and establishing the flocks in the yards.

If the poultry house floor has lately been renewed with several inches of fresh earth, the dusting box can safely be dispensed with during the winter. The whole floor thus becomes a dusting box, and the fowls will not use any other, even when present, often enough to make it worth while to bother with it.

Before you subscribe for any farm paper this year, be sure to send for a specimen copy of that great weekly paper, The Prairie Farmer, of Chicago. It is the best weekly farm paper published. It is now in its 57th year. See our low clubbing rate with The Prairie Farmer in another column.

M. Parrott, of Aurelia, Iowa, now has more Buff Leghorns and Black Langshans than he cares to carry over the winter. Mr. Parrott breeds good stock, and we can safely promise our readers that they will get what they bargain for in any dealings which they may have with him.

I am well pleased with The Messenger. I have made a good many sales through it. I have run advertisements in 12 different journals, and I think yours has brought its full share of the trade.—W. C. HUGUNIN, Spencer, Ia.

SINGLE AND ROSE COMB WHITE Leghorns

W. Wyandottes and W. Ply. Rocks. April hatched chicks for sale.
W. J. SHIELDS, Harmon's Creek, Pa.

My Partridge Cochins

Are birds that you will not be afraid to put on exhibition when they become your own. Eggs \$1.50 per 13; \$3 for 20. Stock for sale.
J. N. VEEDER, - Primghar, Iowa.

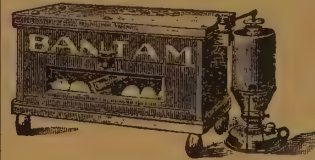
Barred Plymouth Rocks.

Eggs for Hatching from four grand matings of high scoring birds. Eggs one to two dollars per thirteen.

Buff Cochin Bantams.

Scoring 93, 92, 93, 93½, 94, 94½ 95, by I. K. Felch. Highest scoring Buffs at Cedar Falls, Iowa, 1897. Eggs \$2 per 13
W. H. MILLER, Independence, Iowa.

Incubators FOR CASH OR ON 30 Days Trial.



Any Size.
Any Kind.
Cash, \$5.00.
Self-Regulating
Trial, \$5.75
50-Egg Size.

Or Larger and Better Ones.

"My three hatches with Bantam, from 50 eggs each, were 20, 37 and 48 chicks. Jacob Whippert, Cecil, Ohio."

Send 4c for 104 Catalogue and Trial Offer.
BUCKEYE INCUBATOR CO. Springfield, O.

♦ Cornish Indians, ♦

EXCLUSIVELY.

I will have some fine stock for sale early in October.

C. C. OSTERHOLD,
619 Chestnut St. Quincy, Illinois.

World's Champion Herd

—OF—

Improved Chester Whites.

Do you wish to improve your stock of hogs? If you do, and want the best and most profitable breed and strain, send for my 32-page catalogue giving the history and description of the World's Champion Herd of Improved Chester Whites. This little book is free to all, and will prove interesting to you. In it you will find a full history of this famous herd, winners of over \$10,000.00 in premiums at the World's Columbian, best State and County fairs in the United States; the winnings of one year being \$8,800.
WILLIS WHINERY, SALEM, O.



MONEY IN HENS. Do you know our NEW POULTRY BOOK tells it all. How to get Eggs when prices are high. How to Keep Hens healthy and profitable. How to Save Young Chicks and hasten their growth. How to destroy lice that worry the little chicks to death. How to treat all their diseases. How to Keep all your Live Stock in fine condition. HOW TO BUILD POULTRY HOUSES. Description of different Breeds. Price List of High Grade Poultry, Eggs, and Supplies of all kinds. This Book given FREE as premium with the Farm Paper (Wayside Cleanings) 3 months for 10 cents. Address, POULTRY, G. & V. CO., CLINTONVILLE, CONN.



CUSTOM MADE SUITS

Shipped C. O. D. with privilege of examination. We import our own goods and save you half of Local Tailors prices. Our workmanship, trimmings and fit cannot be excelled. Satisfaction guaranteed. Quality cannot be surpassed.

Express Prepaid to any part of the United States. Send for full line of samples, catalogue and measurement blanks, with tape measure Free. THE PROGRESS TAILORING CO., MENTION DEPT. 11, MEDINAH TEMPLE, CHICAGO.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER, AND Western Fruit-Grower.

Published the 15th of every month by
The Messenger Company,
AURELIA, IOWA.

Subscription Price, 25 Cents per Year

More room is the great need of the poultry keeper at the present time. At least that is what he believes; but many of them do not need room so much as they need fewer fowls. One of the hardest lessons to learn is to cull closely and heroically.

Poultry keeping is good amusement, and many people who are engaged in it have no other object in view than the amusement it affords them. But poultry keeping is also business, and if you are in it for profit you must treat it as a business and carry it on in a business way. You can't make play of it and have it pay.

The managers of poultry shows where permanent coops are provided in which to pen the birds on exhibition, ought to know their business well enough to construct them in a manner which will make the birds safe from injury while thus confined. Breeders are constantly urged to patronize the poultry shows, and it is strongly hinted that it is something akin to a sin for them not to do so; but when a breeder receives back from the poultry show his pet trio of fowls with beaks and faces mutilated as the result of fighting through perforated partitions, and plumage bedraggled and broken from crowding into an undersized coop, he will thereafter play shy of that poultry show, and not be much disturbed about the sin he is committing in so doing.

Every successful breeder of poultry believes in ventilation, but every such breeder don't go "daft" on the subject of ventilation. Ventilation is important—it is a necessity; but it must be secured by means which will not introduce evils in the poultry house which will be worse than anything that would result from the lack of ventilation. Use the same judgment in ventilating your poultry house that you do in ventilating the house in which you live.

You can find an army of men who started out to breed for utility, but who are now breeding to the standard. But you will have to skirmish around lively to find a man who commenced with standard bred fowls and dropped them for the what-you-may-call-'ems under the belief that he could thereby attain to better results in the way of utility.

One thing which you might learn at the poultry show is that your birds are better than you thought they were, and that your chance for capturing the highest prizes would have been excellent, if you had had the courage to exhibit them. Breeders of prize winners know precisely in what particulars their birds are good and in what they are bad, but all of them don't know just how far the very best that are put on exhibition fall below the standard. At the poultry shows they will discover that the even high-up breeders have a mighty gap to pass before they can reach perfection.

Poultry Instruction.

Mr. Samuel Cushman, formerly poultry manager for the Rhode Island Experiment Station—in which capacity the excellence of his work attracted our attention, years ago—but now of Pawtucket in the same State, and a valued member of the Country Gentleman staff—may be engaged to address farmers' institutes, poultry societies, grange meetings and agricultural college students in any part of the country on cer-

tain topics relating to poultry production, with special attention to turkey, goose and artificial duck-raising. We feel confident that his lectures will give satisfaction. He is remarkably painstaking and accurate in gathering facts, clear and entertaining in presenting them, and never speaks or writes without having something of solid value to communicate.—Country Gentleman.

Latest News from the Chicago Show.

The National Fanciers Association of Chicago will hold its second annual show in the Second Regiment Armory on Michigan Ave. & Monroe St. the last week in January.

Arrangements are being perfected to make this a great triumph. Among other things which the Bureau of Publicity and Promotion will do is to furnish information about boarding places, restaurants, and arrival and departure of trains, rates of fare, express rates &c.

The address of the Bureau is John L. Barwick, Chairman, 110 Franklin St., Chicago.

The judges who will issue score cards are B. N. Pierce, Theodore Sternberg, H. A. Bridge, J. Y. Bicknell, J. W. Nevius, Thos. Cory. The pigeon judge is George Ewald.

The General Superintendent of the show will be John M. Rill and he will be ably seconded by Eb. Denny of Aurora, Ill., as Supt. of the Poultry Division and F. W. Ashley of Chicago as Supt. of the Pigeon Division.



ACKLEY'S
Light
Brahmas
Great : Sale.
800 CHICKS

Raised this season all hatched and reared by hens with free grass range and all bred from my best matings. They are healthy, strong chicks and very promising. Eight-hundred young birds bred in line to select from. They will be in fine condition for the fall and winter shows and for breeding next season. A few good hens also for sale cheap, quality considered. I must sell a large share of these birds quickly, and at a sacrifice, if necessary, to make room for the remainder. Let me know your wants. I will give you bottom prices.

R. O. ACKLEY, Sioux City, Iowa.

Breeders' Cards.

Query Department.

In this department questions pertaining to chickens and small fruits will be answered by O. P. GREER, Bourbon, Indiana.

In looking over a borrowed copy of the Standard I see that all varieties of fowls have a symmetry clause, and also have a section for shape. What is the difference between symmetry and shape? If they are both the same why not dispose of one?—M. R.

Some of our best breeders believe that symmetry should be stricken from standard, because it represents defects which are cut under shape. It is therefore a double cut, unjust and useless. They believe if a bird was defective in back, breast, neck, &c., it would receive a severe cut in symmetry and would also receive another cut in each section for shape. While symmetry and shape appear to be one and the same thing, perhaps we have been wrong in our conclusions when we thought that symmetry should be stricken from the standard. It is a fact that the great object of symmetry is to hold the various breeds of fowls separate and distinct from each other, and to be a mark by which all can know the true type of any breed. A bird might be defective in neck and cut for shape, defective in back and other sections and cut for shape, yet symmetry will step in and say there shall be a harmony of the various parts in such a manner that a distinctive form or type be produced peculiar to the breed. In the majority of cases birds are cut too light on symmetry. It is this distinctive form, typical, if you please, peculiar to each breed, that is so much admired by fanciers. Take the Langshan and Black Cochins, for instance. They are very nearly alike except for symmetry. The Cochins has the symmetry peculiar to and distinctive of the Cochins, while the Langshan has the symmetry peculiar

to the Langshan. I hear someone say: "Peculiar to the Langshan." Take away the word symmetry and I fear that in a few years the Langshan would differ but little from the Cochins, and there would be a general mixing up of breeds so far as symmetry is concerned. There is something about the word symmetry that keeps us all thinking and studying, and to lose track of it would be pretty near as bad as losing track of color.

A short time ago I sent three dollars and fifty cents to a prominent breeder of Barred Plymouth Rocks for a two year old cock. He was to send me a good breeding bird for the money. The bird in most respects is very good, but is awful brassy on back and wings. There is enough brass on this cock to galvanize the cheeks of a dozen lightning rod peddlers. I am informed by this prominent breeder that this bird is all right to breed, as this brassy color did not show until the second year. I am suspicious about breeding from such a bird, and would like to know your opinion.—L, P. S.

It is not best to breed from a Barred Plymouth Rock male if he shows any brassy or straw color in plumage. This prominent breeder should have mentioned this defect in color before the purchase, and if you had then accepted his offer there would be no ground for kicking. It is true that some Barred Plymouth Rocks will show brassy or straw color at two or three years old that did not show it when a cockerel or yearling; but I would hesitate to breed from a cock of that stripe if I was aiming to raise up-to-date stock. These personal inquiries that I receive I am somewhat timid in answering, especially when I am called upon to decide a matter in dispute without having testimony on both sides of the case. I have attended lawsuits when after the prosecution had closed or rested their case I was confident that a verdict should be found in their favor, but after hearing the other side of the case I changed my mind.

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Fruit Growing

ELMER BRINTNALL, Editor,
Winthrop, Iowa.

All communications for this department should be sent to the above address.

Cherries are subject to fewer diseases than most other fruits, and nothing is safer to plant in this western country than cherry trees. We must be careful in selecting the varieties, and it must be admitted that the varieties which succeed best are not of first-rate quality. The early and late Richmond and the Wragg are most extensively planted, and these can be used in the fullest assurance of producing paying crops with greater regularity perhaps than any of the tree fruits.

The western farmer will not plant apple trees in the fall if he has any regard whatever for the advice of the most successful western fruit growers. But if he wants to get some Box Elder shade trees started for next season he can safely put them in the ground any time before the freeze-up, and he will find that they will make a more thrifty growth next season than those which are planted in the spring. This is the only kind of fall planting that we care to recommend.

Cabbages to be fit for kitchen use must be kept in a manner which will prevent wilting, and to prevent wilting they must be kept out of doors. The cellar is the last place which should be thought of in which to store them. Make a pyramid of the heads and case it around with the large lower leaves, then cover with several inches of leaves from the grove or forest. On top of this throw two inches of earth, and in the spring the cabbage will be found sound and crisp.

The past summer the writer saw a small orchard of thrifty young cherry trees all heavily loaded with fruit, and we were surprised to hear the owner say that he was not out of pocket a penny for the trees. Eight years before he had purchased two root-grafted Early Richmond cherry trees. At the expiration of two or three years there were several dozen nice looking cherry sprouts in the neighborhood these trees. As an experiment he concluded to trans-

other than root-grafted trees, and it furnishes another argument against the crown graft which is being so industriously pushed by some tree sellers.

It will pay to disconnect the grape vines from the trellis, spread them out on the ground and cover with a few inches of earth. Good crops will often be obtained without this trouble, but taking a series of years one will be well paid for the labor in the extra yield of fruit. It seems like a laborious task, but after one has begun the work he will find that it is not such a serious undertaking as he might have supposed it would be.

The western farmer who says he can buy small fruits for his family cheaper than he can grow them is careful never to give practical proof of his declaration. He don't grow the fruits and he don't buy them, and his family and the world is given no more substantial evidence than his unsupported word as to his power to do what he says he can.

The yield of apples in northern New York this season is only one-tenth of a crop. In many other sections from which heavy shipments are usually made the crop is but little if any better. The few localities in which a reasonably good crop has been harvested are having a fine source of revenue this season, as there is a demand for everything in this line at remunerative prices.

Yes, you can grow peaches in north-western Iowa. It is being done right along. If you haven't anything else to do and know how to plant and train the

trees so they can be laid down and covered you can raise your own peaches, and good ones too every year. But if

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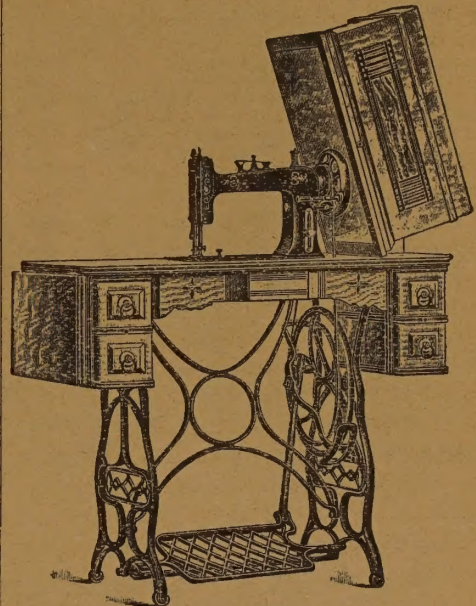
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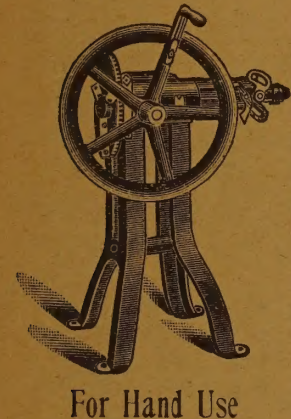
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